



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 13 2007

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name:	Town of Hague Hague Sewer District No. 2
Purpose of Project:	This project involves connection of 156 residences to the Town's wastewater treatment facility to alleviate water quality problems associated with the use of on-site septic systems along the northwest shore of Lake George.
Project Originator:	Warren County, New York
Project Location:	Town of Hague, Warren County, New York
Project Description:	The proposed project involves construction of 21,200 linear feet of pressure sewer/force main, installation of 156 individual grinder-pump units and 34 manholes, and upgrading the capacity of the Town's existing Lake Shore Pumping Station. This infrastructure will be connected to the Town's existing wastewater treatment facility.
Estimated Eligible Project Costs:	\$ 3,740,000
EPA Grants:	\$ 3,160,000

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and the Town of Hague and Warren County, New York, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmmlr2nepa.htm#r2docs>.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within **30** calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musurneci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steinberg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan J. Steinberg  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

## Environmental Assessment

### I. Project Identification                      Town of Hague Sewer District No. 2

Name and Address of Applicant:              Warren County  
Municipal Center  
Lake George, New York

EPA Project Number:                      XP992256-01

Project Location:                          Warren County, New York

### II. Description of Facility Planning Area

The planning area for this project comprises two residential areas located on the west shore of Lake George, in the Town of Hague, Warren County, New York. (Figures 1 and 2)

Lake George, a unique environmental resource, is a 44 square-mile lake which is located in a comparatively small 232 square-mile watershed. The pristine waters of the Lake have resulted in its development as an important recreational resource and its use as a source of drinking water.

Most of the municipalities bordering the Lake experience a doubling or tripling of their populations during the summer tourist season. Furthermore, numerous commercial enterprises and private homes extract water from the Lake as their potable water source, often without treatment. Thus, the waters of Lake George are important to the region's economy, which is highly dependent on recreation and Lake-related activities. Consequently, beginning with the Lake George Law in 1948, the State of New York has enacted various laws and regulations limiting the discharge of wastewater within the Lake George basin.

### III. Purpose and Need for Project

The purpose of this project is to eliminate the failure of subsurface wastewater disposal systems in the area. Currently, the planning area consists of two unsewered areas which lie immediately north and south of the existing Hague Sewer District No. 1. These areas utilize individual subsurface disposal systems, primarily septic tanks, to dispose of sewage from 156 existing residences.

For a variety of reasons (separation distance from the Lake, poorly drained soils, shallow depth to bedrock or the water table, and/or development density) these septic tank disposal systems do not always function properly and in accordance with New York State standards. As a result of these conditions, homeowners whose septic systems fail must often install wastewater holding tanks on their property. These holding tanks need to be monitored and periodically pumped out, and have their contents transported to a wastewater treatment facility for disposal, all of which can be inconvenient and expensive for the homeowners.

#### IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

The proposed project consists of installing a system of low pressure sewers designed to collect wastewater from the two residential areas. Each occupied parcel of land within the new service area, known as Sewer District No. 2, would be equipped with a grinder-pump unit to convey wastewater to the Town's wastewater treatment facility for treatment via the existing Sewer District No. 1 sewer system. The new system would serve 156 existing residences along the shore of Lake George, eliminating the need for septic tanks **and/or** holding tanks. (Figures 3 and 4)

The **Town's** wastewater treatment facility and the sanitary sewer system which presently serves Sewer District No. 1 were constructed with Federal grant assistance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the planning for those projects and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment (**FNSI/EA**) for them on April 25, 1997. The **wastewater treatment** facility provides tertiary treatment in accordance with state and federal requirements, and has **sufficient** capacity available to accept the projected wastewater flows from Sewer District No. 2.

The proposed wastewater facilities servicing Sewer District No. 2 consist of the following:

- 2,600 linear feet of 2" pipe
- 18,600 linear feet of 4" pipe
- 34** manholes
- 156 grinder pumps
- Upgrade the existing Lake Shore pumping station

#### V. Evaluation of Alternatives

##### A. No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, a sanitary sewer system would not be installed. Existing septic systems would continue to be relied upon for disposal of wastewater. As a result, the potential for contamination of the lake by failed septic systems would continue, with such failures possibly going undetected. Thus, the "No Action" alternative was rejected.

##### B. Upgrade Existing On-Site Facilities

This alternative, which was previously considered during the planning for the wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities which presently serve Hague Sewer District No. 1, would rely on local soils to treat the wastewater from individual septic tanks. Unfortunately, however, the area's poorly suited soils, rocky conditions, steep slopes, and proximity to Lake George, would result in eventual failure of any upgraded on-site systems, contravention of New York State standards, and degradation of water quality in Lake George. As a result, this alternative was also rejected.

C. The Selected Plan (Low Pressure Sewers with Individual Grinder Pumps)

This is the selected alternative discussed in the above detailed description of the selected plan. It represents the most economical, environmentally **sound, and** implementable means available to achieve the project's goals.

VI. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan

A. Wetlands

There are a number of small wetland areas in the project area. The proposed project will not adversely **affect** wetlands because construction occurs predominantly within road rights-of-way and other previously disturbed and graded areas. Where these roads cross over stream culverts, impacts to streams and any associated wetlands will be avoided by using directional drilling to install the sewer mains beneath the stream culverts. Consequently, no temporary or permanent impacts will occur to wetlands.

B. Endangered/Threatened Species

Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, indicated that except for the Federally- and State-listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis **sodalis***), no Federally-listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat are known to exist in the project area. It is not anticipated, however, that the Indiana bat or its habitat will be impacted by the project due to a number of factors:

1. Construction will take place primarily within the shoulder of Route 9N and local roads;
2. No trees will be disturbed or removed;
3. Possible forage areas will not be affected, due to the use of directional drilling for all **stream/wetland** crossings and for crossing the upland forested area between Forest Bay Road South and Spring Lane;
4. Noise impacts **from** construction will be minor and temporary.

C. Archeological and Historical Resources

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has reviewed the Stage 1A/1B cultural resources investigation for the project. The State Historic Preservation **Officer's** (SHPO) May 5, 2006 letter indicates that the proposed project will have no impact on cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the State and National Register of Historic Places. The Environmental Protection Agency concurs with this conclusion.

D. Noise

During construction, there will be increased noise levels in the vicinity of construction activities. This effect will, however, be temporary and localized and will be minimized by requiring machinery to be equipped with proper mufflers

E. Traffic

Work within the right-of-way of Route 9N requires approval **from** the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). A section of the project along Route 9N may require a lane reduction until construction is complete in one area with a narrow rock corridor. This will be coordinated with the NYSDOT so that, with appropriate traffic control measures implemented, no significant impacts will result.

F. Air Quality

The area is presently in attainment for all the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and no significant long-term impacts to air quality are expected to result **from** this project. Although construction activities could result in **fugitive** dust in the immediate area of construction, any air impacts would be temporary and will be controlled by limiting the length of open cut trenches to the minimum lengths needed to install sections of **pipe/manholes**.

G. Population Projections

Based upon the limited capacity of the small diameter sewer system being installed, as well as the limited capacity of the existing wastewater treatment facility, the project will not induce significant new development.

H. Environmental Justice

EPA Region 2's Environmental Justice (EJ) guidance contains criteria for identifying potential EJ communities, based on minority populations and income levels. Based on EPA's analysis, the planning area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area. In any case, environmental review of the project indicates that the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to residents. Accordingly, there are no environmental justice issues associated with the proposed project.

VII. Coordination of Environmental Review

A. Public Participation

Public hearings were held locally on July 15 and August 5, 2006

B. Indian Nations and Federal, State, and Local Agencies Notified/Consulted

1. St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
2. U.S. Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service
3. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Natural Heritage Program
4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 5

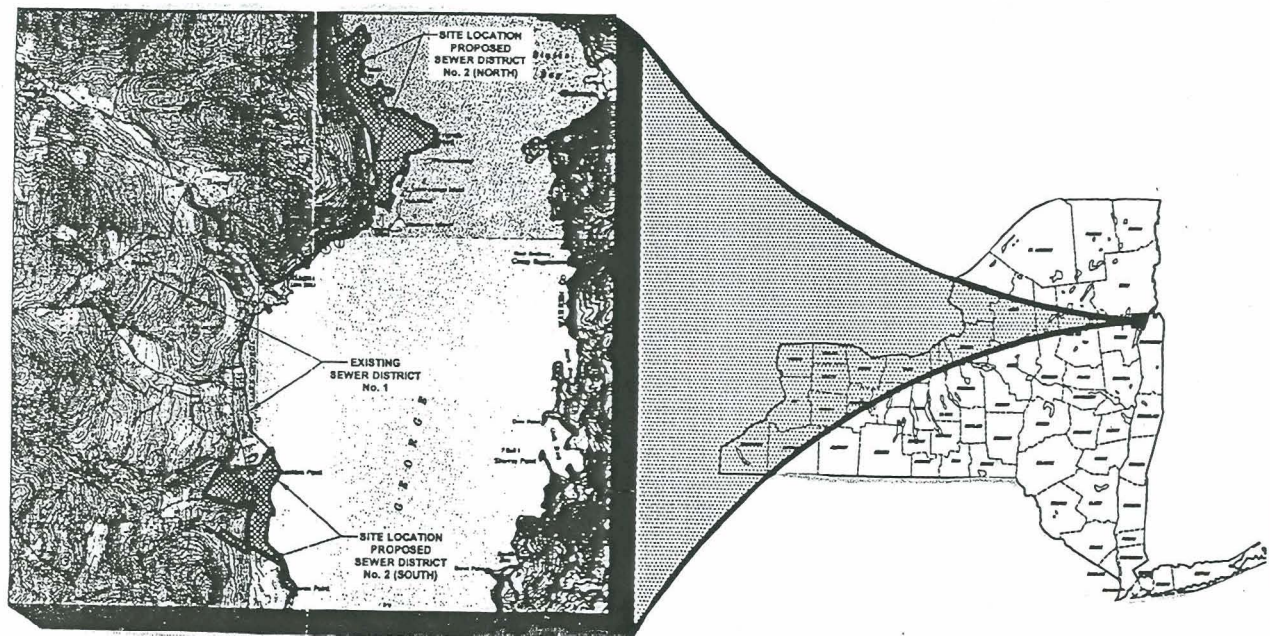
5. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
6. New York State Department of Transportation
7. Adirondack Park Agency
8. Warren County Department of Public Works

C. Reference Documents

1. *Environmental Review Record for the Hague Sewer District No. 2 Project*, Clough Harbour & Associates LLP, May 2006
2. *Additional Information re: Hague Sewer District No. 2 Project*, Clough Harbour & Associates LLP, April 23, 2007
3. *Phase 1A/1B Literature Review and Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment, and Archeological Field Reconnaissance*, Hartgen Archeological Associates, 2005
4. *Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for the Town of Hague Wastewater Facilities Project*; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, April 25, 1997



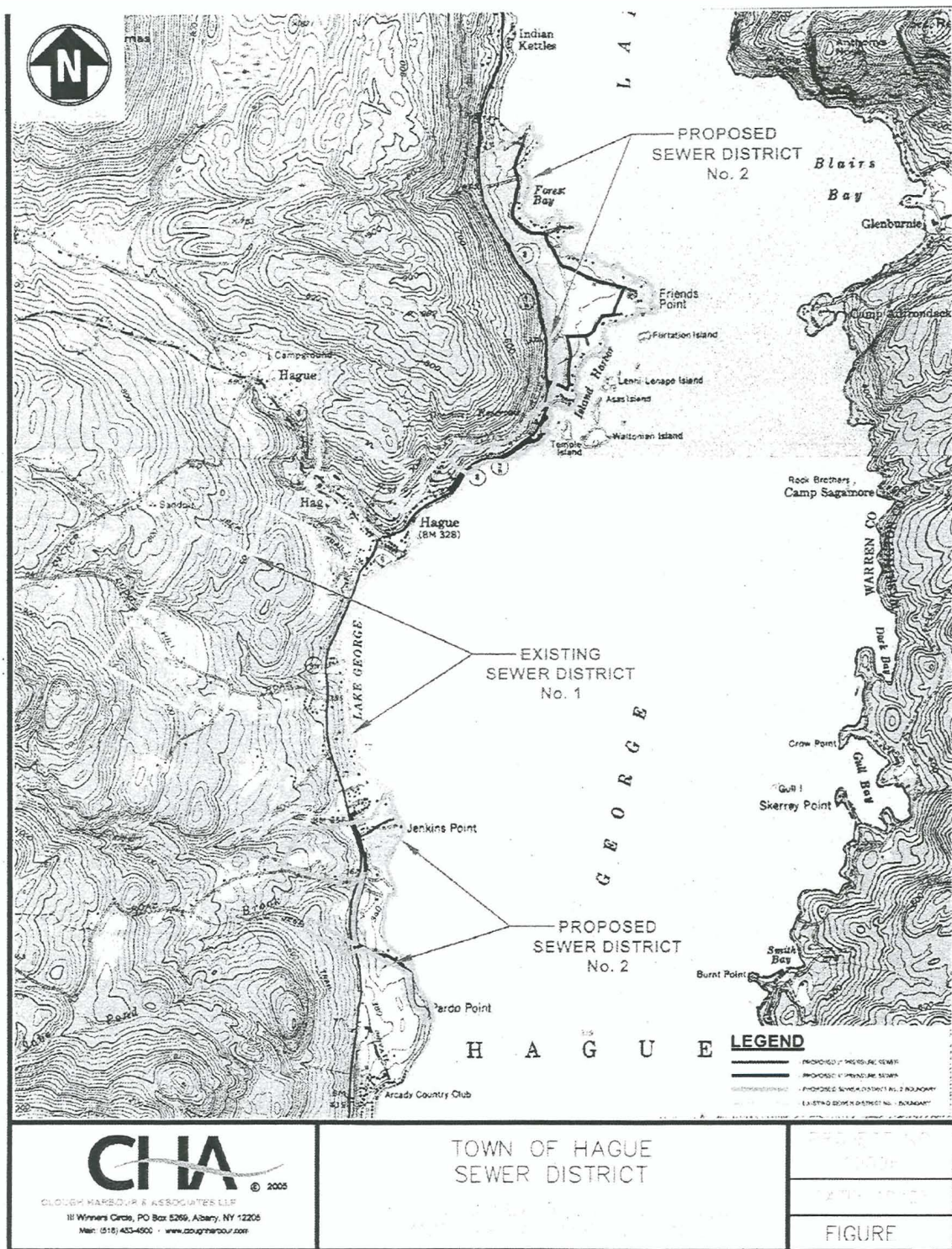
# Town of Hague Warren County, New York



Project Location

Figure 1

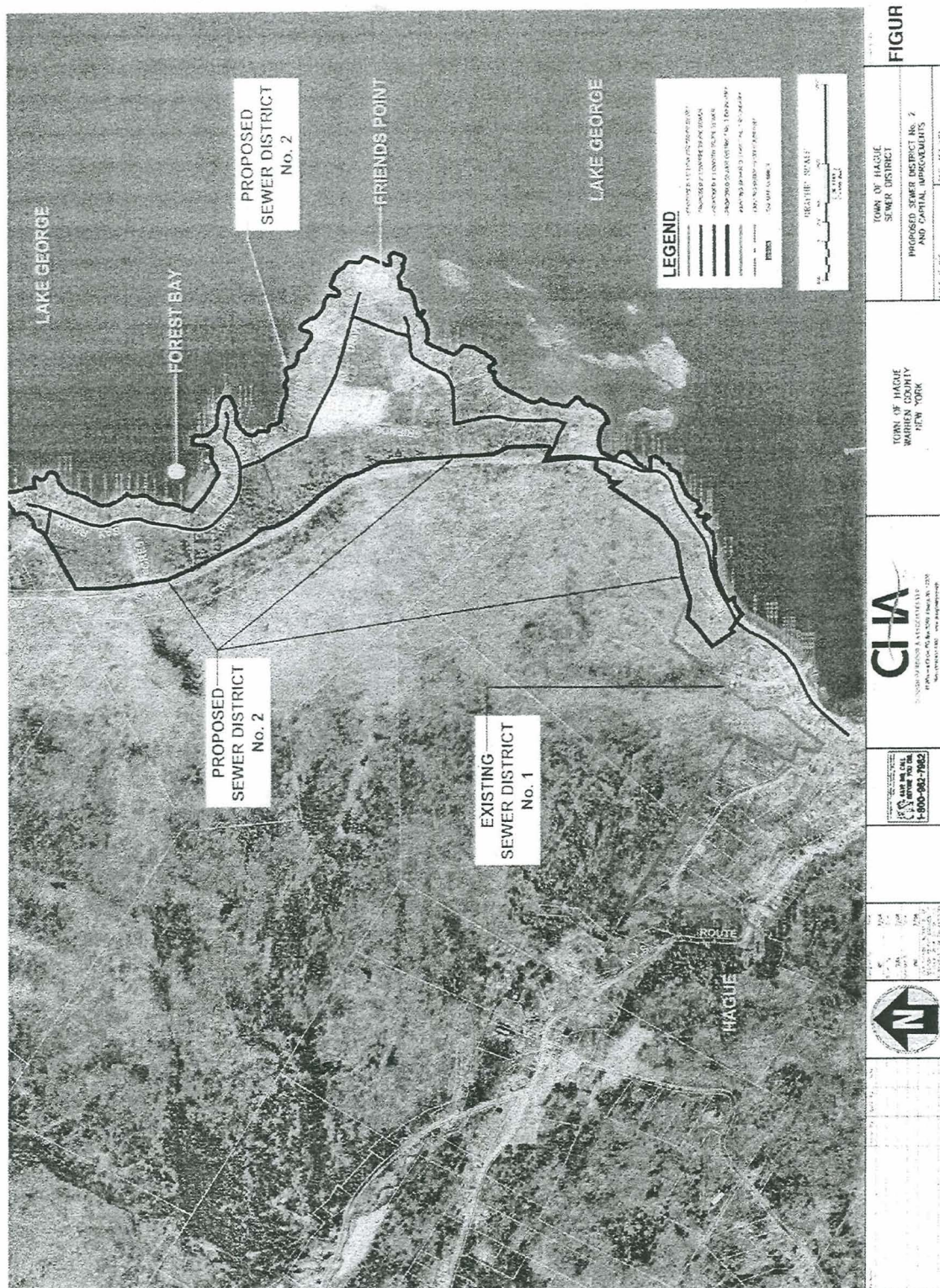




Location Map  
Town of Hague Sewer Districts 1 and 2

Figure 2





Town of Hague  
Proposed Sewer District No. 2 - Northern Portion

Figure 3



